

Between the Bookends

by Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



Two years ago the Oregon Library Association encouraged all libraries in the state to participate in "Oregon Reads" by promoting *Stubborn Twin*, the factual account of three generations of a Japanese-American family living in the Pacific Northwest. Since then, libraries have been encouraged to choose "Community Reads"—endorsing a chosen book and planning some activity associated with that

book. Vernonia readers have chosen Robin Cody's *Another Way the River Has: Taut True Tales from the Northwest*, as our "Community Reads" for 2011. Of the 24 stories contained in this book, nine are new, nine previously appeared in *The Oregonian* and several more appeared in Portland Magazine and other publications. In this book are gyppo loggers, rodeo cowboys, outlaw Indian fishermen, special-education children, umpires, delinquent juveniles, and even deaf basketball players — all with nothing and everything to do with Cody's passion for the waters of the Northwest. The river has a way, in this collection, of inspiring us to consider unexpected possibilities and new ways of looking at our environment.

Cody's first book, *Voyage of a Summer Sun*, relates his 82 day journey in a canoe from the headwaters of the Columbia to its mouth — the Pacific Ocean. This is not a book about just a canoe trip; it tells realistic stories of the people he meets while introducing all the issues that embroil the Columbia — from nuclear wastes to logging to salmon to treaties. His second book, *Ricochet River*, is the fictional story of three high school students coming of age in the 1960s.

Having read all three of Cody's books, I can honestly say that I cannot think of another author who has captured and depicted issues concerning nature and the environment of Oregon, as well as the spirit of Oregonians, in such an honest, down-to-earth and thought-provoking manner. All of Robin Cody's books are prominently displayed in the library with the expectation that many in the community will read them and wish to discuss them on Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m. when Mr. Cody and his wife will be at the library. Copies of *Another Way the River Has* may be purchased at the library prior to this visit with autographing to take place following event.

New acquisitions include *Crunch Time* by Diane Mott Davidson, *Mystery* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Dead by Midnight* by Carolyn

Hart, *The Land of Painted Caves* by Jean Auel, *Gideon's Sword* by Preston & Child, *Live Wire* by Harlan Coben, *Cold Wind* by C. J. Box, *I'll Walk Alone* by Mary Higgins Clark, and *Night Road* by Kristen Hannah. Most of the selections chosen as 2012 Young Reader's Choice Awards have been purchased and will be on prominent display shortly.

Book discussion will take place on Monday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m. with *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson being the subject matter for the month.

Movie night for this month will be Thursday, April 28th. *Morning Glory*, starring Harrison Ford, Rachel McAdams and Diane Keaton, will be shown at 6:30 p.m.

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Avenue

Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tues., Thu. 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. when school is in session.

Phone: 503-429-1818

Give Screen-Free Week a chance

by Chris Thomas, Oregon News Service

Can Modern Folks Learn to Appreciate "Real" Tweets... from Birds?

This is "Screen-Free Week," an annual event to prompt people to turn off computers, television sets, video games and those communication devices many of us carry everywhere — and actually converse with each other. But how many Oregonians would consider that punishment instead of personal progress?

Screen-Free Week is also an effort to encourage families to get outdoors for fitness and recreation. And Rob Klavins, a wildlands advocate who coordinates the hiking program for Oregon Wild, says nature is not so bad — once you get used to it, "Folks can be used to being overstimulated by all those toys and gizmos, but really, I think there's a deep-seated part of us that wants to connect with wild places and wildlife. And so, I think that being out on the trail, being away from the TV, can be a good thing for everybody, whether you're a kid or a kid at heart."

Oregon Wild schedules nature walks and hiking trips throughout the state, as well as

bike trips. They're free, and many are for families and beginners. (Find the schedule at www.oregonwild.org.)

Klavins, who also leads some of the hikes, has learned that even those kids who show up at the trailhead with earbuds, iPods and cell phones come around eventually, "I think people are surprised to find out just how much they enjoy it. You know, I personally find myself often forgetting until I actually get out there on the trail, how great it is to be in a place like Oregon."

Dana Friedman, president of the Early Years Institute, says while the focus of Screen-Free Week is children, it's up to parents to set an example to prevent families from turning into couch potatoes with no social skills, "We've all had the experience of walking into a restaurant and seeing Mom on her BlackBerry, texting, and Dad on the cell phone, and each of the kids has some electronic device now. They sit down at the meal and nobody talks to each other."

Friedman says Screen-Free Week aims to help young people balance their interest in technology with getting out and spending time with others. And even if you can't go completely "screen-free" this week, the goal is to make people more aware of the time they spend physically inactive, staring at screens.

More about Screen-Free Week is at <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/screen-free-week/index.html>.

Don't kiss the Easter chicks

With spring here and the Easter holiday approaching, Oregon Public Health officials are urging parents to protect their children from potential Salmonella infection caused by handling baby poultry, such as chicks and ducklings. Baby chicks are cute, soft and cuddly. Handling them, however, could cause illness.

"I know baby chicks and ducklings are cute and you may want to pick them up. Never nuzzle or kiss chicks or ducklings. Salmonella bacteria are easily spread from birds to humans," said Emilio DeBess, D.V.M., M.P.V.M., state public health veterinarian for the Oregon Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority. "Chicks and ducklings may not be an appropriate gift for children younger than five, or for people with weakened immune systems," he said.

A recent case of salmonellosis in a child in Deschutes County has been linked to baby chicks that had been kept inside a home, which led to cross-contamination.

Many chicks carry Salmonella bacteria in their intestinal tract and can shed these bacteria in their feces. Salmonella bacteria may not cause any illness in chicks, but can cause serious illness in people, especially children and immune-compromised people.

Most Salmonella infections in humans result in a mild, self-limiting illness characterized by diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps. However, the infection can spread to the bloodstream, leading to severe and sometimes fatal illness.

To prevent the spread of Salmonella bacteria from baby birds, people should take the following precautions:

- Always wash your hands with hot, soapy water after handling cages, equipment and the stool of birds.
- Keep the birds outside.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds, cages or bird equipment.
- Follow instructions from your veterinarian concerning proper diet and environment for your chicks. Healthy chicks and ducklings living in proper environments are less likely to shed Salmonella bacteria.

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